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February 27, 2006

Leon Drolet, Chair  
N0797 House office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Re: Senate Bills 1026-1030  
House Bills 5744-5745

Dear Representative Leon Drolet:

We need your support of legislation that is very important to us and 5,000 other licensees statewide. It is our understanding that the House Committee on Government Operations is considering Senate Bills 1026-1030 and House Bills 5744-5745 this week. These bills amend the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act, Public health Code, Mental Health Code, Administrative Procedures Act and Social Welfare Act. The enactment of these statutory amendments is essential to us. Without them, we could be subject to burdensome and unreasonable administrative rules.

By way of background, we operate licensed adult foster care homes serving persons with developmental disabilities. We provide 24-hour personal care, supervision and protection for some of the most vulnerable adults in the community. Last summer, the Departments of Human Services and Community Health proposed extensive changes to our licensing rules. We strongly oppose many of the proposed changes. We have voiced our concerns and our issues have not been satisfactorily been addressed by the respective state agencies.

Without this legislation, our limited resources will be wrongfully diverted away from direct consumer support and services. We will have to shift our resources towards burdensome administrative tasks because our staff are no organized by a labor union. We think this is unreasonable. We feel that our state licensing rules should be neutral as to union status. State licensing rules should not favor or punish licensees based on the union status of its workers.

Please be assured that these bills are not intended to negate worker's rights under the Fair Labor Standard Act, National Labor Relations Act or any

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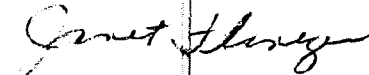
other state or federal laws governing worker's rights. The bills do not condone unfair labor practices and do not limit employees' rights to seek all of the traditional remedies for such unlawful practices. The bills simply remove union status and employee wages and fringe benefits from the administrative rules governing adult foster care homes. All other laws remain in full effect.

We ask that you support these bills that protect us and the 50,000 consumers living in licensed settings statewide. In supporting these bills, you will help enable the Michigan Departments of Human Services and Community Health to maintain their focus on consumer protection and not labor relations. In our view, labor relations should be left to the traditional state and federal agencies that have the experience and the statutory authority to act to perform these functions.

We urge you to support these Senate and House Bills and welcome your questions. Also, please confirm for us as to when these bills will be taken up by the full House and Senate. We would like to travel to Lansing and be present to hear the discussion and the discussion and respective votes.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Janet Flanegin, MSA

Director of Services for Persons with Disabilities  
Judson Center